AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following list of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

<u>List of Claims</u>:

1-22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Currently amended) A method for identifying a subject at risk of developing heart failure ~~or developing complications of heart failure~~, the method comprising measuring the level of galectin-3 in a biological sample from a human subject and comparing the level of galectin-3 to a standard level indicative of heart failure risk, wherein an elevated level of galectin-3 in the sample indicates a risk of developing heart failure ~~or developing complications of heart failure~~.

24.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the sample is a serum or plasma sample derived from peripheral blood.

25-26. (Canceled)

27.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the biological sample is from a patient with cardiovascular disease.

28.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising measuring the level of thrombospondin-2 in the sample and comparing the level of thrombospondin-2 to a standard level indicative of heart failure risk.

29.   (Currently amended) A method of identifying a risk of developing congestive heart failure ~~or developing complications of congestive heart failure~~ in a patient with cardiovascular disease, the method comprising measuring a level of galectin-3 in a sample from the patient and comparing it to a standard level indicative of a risk of developing congestive heart failure ~~or developing complications of congestive heart failure~~, wherein an elevated level of galectin-3 in the sample indicates a risk of developing congestive heart failure ~~or developing complications of congestive heart failure~~.

30.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the sample is a serum or plasma sample derived from peripheral blood.

31.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the standard level is a level indicative of the risk of developing congestive heart failure ~~or developing complications of congestive heart failure~~.

32.   (Canceled)

33.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising measuring the level of thrombospondin-2 in the sample and comparing the level of thrombospondin-2 to a standard level indicative of congestive heart failure risk.